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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/7/07

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED 2/10/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE NM Highlands Safe Rides Home From Bars SB 790

ANALYST Guambaña

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$15.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 790 appropriates \$15,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) for the purpose of providing a Safe Ride Home from area bars and nightclubs near NMHU.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$15,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 08 shall revert to the General Fund.

This request was not submitted by NMHU to HED for review and is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY 08.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Per HED, the Alcohol Alert website states that New Mexico had 488 car accident deaths in 2005. Of these, 189 were alcohol related, comprising 39% of the state total deaths. Ninety-one percent

of these 189 involved drunk drivers whose blood alcohol concentration (BAC) level was equal to or greater than .08 grams per deciliter. Nationally, persons who are not intoxicated have a BAC of less than .01 grams per deciliter. Several college campuses including, but not limited to Kansas State University, South Dakota State University, the University of Nebraska, and Boston University have Safe Ride Home programs intact.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

HED states that if the Safe Ride Home Program utilizes taxi cabs, NMHU will need to determine if the city has enough cabs to fill this need. An alternative is to determine whether NMHU can provide this service through already-existing institutional vehicles.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

What are the current drunk driving statistics specific to Las Vegas?
How many students does the Safe Ride Home Program hope to serve?
Does the city of Las Vegas have enough taxi cabs to fill this need?

AG/sb